

108 MEMORY, HABIT, AND IMITATION

the more *imaginative* will be his recollections. It is mainly in the equipment of emotional interests that lies the difference between the intelligent and the stupid man.

An emotional impulse may not only deflect the course of the memory stream, but may set up a vortex in it which constantly brings the same set of images before the consciousness. A lover's thoughts can hardly stray from his mistress, and the conversation of men who are given up to racing or golf shows how little is presented to their minds that is unconnected with their passion. The eddy may grow into a whirlpool that engulfs the memory stream altogether, but seizes hold of a few recollections that are circulated incessantly before the sufferer's attention. This is madness.

By investing an impression or a recollection with an emotional interest, we endow it, so to speak, with a magnetic attraction for other impressions and recollections that have been touched by the same emotion. Recollections that are so connected tend to flow towards one another if the regular subconscious course of the memory-stream be disturbed by an emotion or an effort of will. The fruit of these attractions is the faculty of Imagination, which is one of the most sentimental and most practical attributes of mental life. We think of it as a creative faculty, and so it may be

regarded from one point of view. Yet,
strictly speaking, it can create nothing, and is
absolutely dependent upon the memory for the
material with which it builds up its fabrics. whether
they be artistic, mathematical, or castles in
Spain. But our memory can supply us abundantly
with materials that may be fashioned,
combined, and